DOUBLE BARREL

88.1 WKNC

A WKNC Publication

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Q&A WITH EMILY EHLING, WKNC GM

Q How did you come into your role as manager of WKNC?

A I had only been working at WKNC for about a year and a half when I decided to apply for general manager. I had spent my freshman year as a DJ but it wasn't until my sophomore year that I became super passionate about the station. My first executive staff position was social media director, which is what really inspired me to get more involved. I decided to apply for operations manager the next semester to start gaining more responsibility and learn more about the technical aspects of the station. This all lead up to me applying for general manager that same semester - it happened really fast. One day I joked about applying and the next day I was in one of the scariest interviews of my life with the Student Media Board of Directors. The whole process of applying is pretty intense and requires a lot of consideration of what I could personally do to lead the station. I'm really grateful for how serious the application was. I learned how to channel my passion for WKNC into realistic goals and also learned super valuable interview skills.

Q What are you day-to-day duties?

A A LOT of emails. Not joking… most of the job is emailing. I've gotten really good at personalizing emails with colorful text and emoticons. I also get some pretty weird emails since the general manager email address has been passed through so many people over the years. Some previous general manager down the line subscribed to a bunch of conspiracy theory email lists and I think they're just too funny to unsubscribe. Other day-to-day tasks range from updating the staff about new developments at the station to planning a show for our outdoor concert series Fridays on the Lawn. Most of my job is delegating various duties to the rest of our amazing executive staff who help me so much.

Q What has been the most rewarding aspect or aspects of your time thus far?

A I have learned and gained so much from this job that it's hard to narrow down a couple rewarding aspects. If I had to pick, it would be having the opportunity to learn so much at such a young age. Being general manager is a "real world" job and I am so grateful to get that experience while still being in college. Managing a staff, planning large-scale events… there are many things I would have never experienced without this job. Working with the Triangle community as well as the college radio community has also been immeasurably rewarding; they are both communities of passionate people that really inspire me.

Q What was the main thought process behind booking Double Barrel Benefit?

A While we have incorporated multiple genres into the lineup over the years, last year was the first time we dedicated a whole night to underrepresented genres. I absolutely wanted to continue that this year, but keep it moving in a progressive direction by making sure we also had gender representation. Indie rock is great and we have wonderful local indie rock bands, but the genre is predominantly white men… it does not need to be focused on as much as other genres. It is important to showcase a variety of genres because within that comes showcasing a variety of different types of people. As for other booking aspects of Double Barrel Benefit, we kept both nights in Raleigh at Kings because it's a venue that has helped us out a lot in the past with the event. We rely a lot on the Raleigh community and we are based in Raleigh, which is also why we wanted to keep both nights here.

Q How does Double Barrel Benefit come into fruition from the above thought process?

A It takes a lot of different ideas and collaboration with other executive staff members, mainly the program director (we like to keep it a secret until the big reveal). We start out with really exciting, cool ideas but they are not always the most realistic. The whole booking process brings a lot of ideas back down to earth; obviously, not every artist we want is within our reach or available to play. Not too many people have booking experience before this job, including myself, which consumes most of the process after just coming up with fun ideas. Once we have our vision and the artists are being booked is when we start talking to the venue. After those big aspects are solidified and planned, the rest is mostly smaller details. It is absolutely a group effort and is not the product of one person.

Q Are you excited for Double Barrel Benefit?

A I AM SO EXCITED!!! If it was not clear already, I love this radio station and it means so much to me. Being a part of WKNC has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life and I feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to help with such a crucial event for our station. All the artists playing Double Barrel Benefit are amazing people whose passion for their music and the Triangle community encompasses everything WKNC holds dear. Planning Double Barrel Benefit was definitely stressful but we are all excited to see it pay off and enjoy great local music with our wonderful fans.

DBB XIV ARTIST PROFILES

Night 1 - Feb 24, 2017, 8:30 p.m. @ Kings

DJ Paypal

DJ Paypal came up in Raleigh as a student of footwork, playing many parties that got shut down by the cops. He spent countless hours listening to footwork, a Chicago style of electronic music feature breakneck complex rhythms with luscious production. In 2012, he released his first EP, "WHY" with his immense knowledge of the genre, soon became a key member of the Teklife crew featuring many of the top footwork DJs in the world such as the late DJ Rashad, DJ Spinn and DJ Taye.

DJ Paypal's live sets are known for their sly, tongue-in-cheek humor mixed with immense speed, multicultural samples, and plenty of moments for footwork dancers to go off to. A set from DJ Paypal is sure to go late into the night featuring lots of sweat and sore legs.

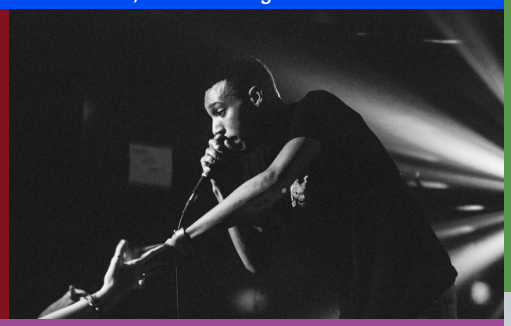
- Jamie Halla, WKNC Program Director

Ace Henderson

From staunch hip-hop heads, to fickle hipsters, everyone loves Ace Henderson. His style of hip-hop has appeal to a wide range of listeners, and is a substantial mix of soul and flow.

For an independent artist in his early 20s, Ace Henny is an impressive person. He's released a wealth of music on his Soundcloud page that generates tens of thousands of spins, he's performed at Hopscotch Music Festival two years in a row, and does shows with Raleigh's most respected hip-hop and electronic artists.

- Charles Morse, WKNC Underground Music Director emeritus



ZenSoFly

Even after one listen of her newest release "Little Miss Perfect," it is clear that there is something extra special about Triangle-based rapper and singer ZenSoFly. Every song has a perfect beat that sounds like a party, but without compromising the artist's intense and impressive lyricism - which is a sound that's hard to come by.

As if Zen's work couldn't get any more intriguing and entertaining to listen to, she delivers an amazing live performance. My first experience with ZenSoFly was her impromptu performance at a benefit show for the Durham venue Pinhook, and it was a set that left everyone both energized and breathless. While she is currently dominating the local scene, it's obvious that ZenSoFly's brilliance will travel far beyond the Triangle.

ZenSoFly is an artist you absolutely do not want to miss.

- Emily Ehling, WKNC General Manager

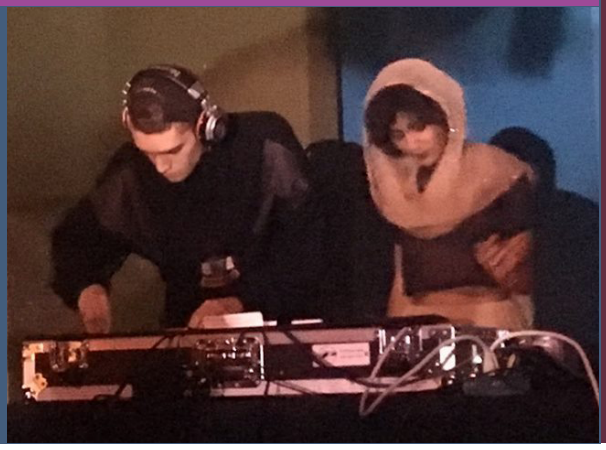
Sand Pact

Last year was an exciting year for Triangle music, which included the arrival of new electronic duo Sand Pact and the release of their first album "Malleate."

The duo is a collaborative project of artists Gudiya and No Smoking. Both have a distinct style when it comes to their work - and the combination of their art is refreshing, intriguing, and downright inspiring for the local experimental music scene. "Malleate" is tagged as "soundcollage" on the Sand Pact Bandcamp page, which is a perfect descriptor for the duo's music, and one that really makes sense once you've listened to the record.

Sand Pact has a bright future far beyond our Triangle community.

- Emily Ehling, WKNC General Manager



Night Two - Feb 25, 2017, 8:30 p.m. @ Kings

Sarah Shook & The Disarmers

Sarah Shook & The Disarmers is not your grandpa's western music. Sure, she sings about whiskey and gunshots with a southern twang, but with the indomitable spirit of punk rock behind every lyric. Having performed with different lineups for more than ten years, Sarah Shook has found a dedicated following in the Triangle. Shook has the ability to balance on the precipice between country and punk, and the result is a resilient force of music that captivates its audiences, while making them want to drink, cry and dance simultaneously.

Sarah Shook & The Disarmers released their album "Sidelong" in 2015, and it has found acclaim in publications ranging from Indy Week to the BBC. The record is a powerhouse anthem, dealing with themes of love, heartbreak and the drive to keep on keeping on. It is both gritty and enduring, and will make you forget what you think you know about country music.

- Coleen Kinen-Ferguson, WKNC Podcast Manager

See Gulls

See Gulls is a band I immediately heard about after moving to Raleigh almost three years ago, and for good reason. It's hard to classify their sound as one genre, and indie rock certainly doesn't cut it. My favorite way to describe See Gulls is the genre they gave themselves - "Surf version of TLC."

The band has made a significant impact on the Triangle music scene, both with their sound and social involvement. See Gulls has been a part of lineups for anti-HB2 benefits, the new non-male artist centered festival Manifest, and shows urging students to vote in the most recent election. With their fun music and firm political stance, WKNC couldn't pass up having this rad band for Double Barrel Benefit 14.

- Emily Ehling, WKNC General Manager

Infinity Crush

Caroline White's soft, yet eerily beautiful voice drifts over the enchanting, minimalist instrumentation found on Infinity Crush's newest album "Warmth Equation." A Maryland-based artist, who has played in bands such as Julia Brown and High Bloom, White recently moved to Wilmington for college, bringing her charming personality and exceptional music to the state of North Carolina.

An Infinity Crush set is sure to astound with its simple, yet profound grace as White plays the guitar with ease while lulling the audience into a state of melancholic sadness with a tinge of hope. North Carolina and WKNC are so excited to have her as a member of the N.C. music scene.

- Jamie Halla, WKNC Program Director

Astro Cowboy

Your favorite trio is back in action for one night only, exclusively at DBB14!

Birthed from the primordial indie rock scene of Wilmington, Astro Cowboy has been serving teen angst since their first release, "Rat-Man Vann." Originally a duo of Kameron Vann (drums/sleeping) and Travis Harrington (vocals/guitar/b*tching), the team incorporated Mike Schmitt (bass/smells) in fall 2014. Their first full-length, "Hedonism Coliseum," sounds like anything but a first. While they aren't teens anymore, the catchy yet complex guitar riffs and analogies from this album translate to any stage in a life of transition. The lyrical stylings of Travis Harrington are a comfort in the exploration of love, lust, and that dreaded high school math class. Kam Vann delivers beats that energize the audience, so prepare to boogie and get down on night two of DBB.

Performing at DBB is a special treat since the band has officially been retired since October 2015. For one night only, experience Astro Cowboy's sights, sounds and smells on Feb. 25.

- Katelyn Auger, WKNC Corespondent, #2 Astro Cowboy Fan

Raleigh rapper HaLo performs at WKNC's Double Barrel Benefit 8 Feb. 5, 2011 at Kings. Prior to 2016, HaLo and King Mez were the only artists representing the Underground hip-hop genre to perform for WKNC's Double Barrel Benefit.
PHOTO BY: ALEX SANCHEZ

A FORAY INTO NEW GENRES

By Jamie Halla, WKNC Program Director

Over the past 13 years, Double Barrel Benefit has been a WKNC mainstay: an annual concert that features many of North Carolina's finest bands to raise money to support the station. However, one thing has stuck out – the station's dependence upon the state's more indie/folk leaning artists. While all of these artists have been top-notch, they do not accurately reflect North Carolina's diverse range of genres. Nor do they reflect WKNC's programming schedule of Underground, a hip-hop centric block, and Afterhours, an electronic focused block. In the past year, WKNC has seen a great shift to focus more on these previously underrepresented genres that came to a peak with the recent change in WKNC's programming schedule which saw Afterhours, Underground and Chainsaw Rock starting two hours earlier in the day at 6 p.m. instead of 8 p.m.

Throughout its history, Double Barrel Benefit hasn't strayed too far from the guitar-laden music spectrum. Occasionally artists such as King Mez and MAKE have graced the stage, but never has there been a full on line-up reflecting WKNC's non-indie genres. That is, until 2016 with Double Barrel Benefit 13. The second night's lineup saw one of North Carolina's finest hip-hop stars headline, Charlotte's Deniro Farrar. A rising success story from Charlotte, Farror has shared the stage with artists such as Danny Brown and Denzel Curry. Farrar brought an assortment of other Charlotte rappers like Baby Jesus to help out during his performance, creating an unforgettable night of unrivaled energy and passion. The night was rounded out with an equally energetic performance from the emerging Durham MC Professor Toon and a soulful, impassioned performance from Carborro's SkyBlew. To open the night, Earthly brought Double Barrel Benefit a taste of experimental electronic goodness.

This year, the newly created tradition of having a non-indie night has continued with the first night of Double Barrel Benefit 14 featuring a diverse array of artists. Starting the night is electronic act Sand Pact, composed of DJs Gudiya and No Smoking. They are certain to get the night started off right with their experimental sound collage. Following up will be the artist ZenSoFly, who blends hip-hop with an impeccable singing voice. Her sound will get the audience off their feet and dancing, which will only continue when hip-hop artist Ace Henderson takes the stage. His set is sure to rile the audience up further with his high-energy hip-hop bombardments. Topping off the night will be DJ Paypal, an actual WKNC alumnus, who now calls Berlin home. The footwork producer will bring a sweaty, breakneck-paced set with wild samples, insane rhythms and more to top off the first night of Double Barrel Benefit.

WKNC is exceptionally excited to continue exemplifying the variety of its programming schedule as well as North Carolina's abundant array of artists across many genres. Help support WKNC at Double Barrel Benefit 14, Feb. 24 and 25 at Kings.

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BEFORE & AFTER: A DBB GUIDE

By Jamie Halla, WKNC Program Director

WKNC's Double Barrel Benefit is quite the perfect event. Now this might be slightly biased, but it really is. Hear me out. Doors for the event are 8 p.m. so there is plenty of time to wind down from the day before heading downtown. The location at Kings is the perfect spot, right next to Fayetteville Street and just two blocks over from Wilmington Street. The timing and location of Double Barrel Benefit allows all attendees to have a great night on the town.

Before the first artist takes the stage, make sure you grab a bite to eat at any one of the myriad of Raleigh dining establishments. The first one to bring to your attention is Clyde Cooper's BBQ on Wilmington Street, a Raleigh mainstay since well before I was born. You won't find any overpriced small portion plates here. Instead, you'll get a true Southern establishment that focuses on great Eastern North Carolina barbecue (the superior vinegar based barbecue), solid Southern sides such as collard greens and Brunswick stew, and let's not forget about the best hushpuppies you'll find in the area. Wash it all down with that sweet, sweet tea.

If barbecue or meat isn't really your thing, lucky for you, because Raleigh has quite the selection of vegetarian and vegan options. My personal favorite is The Fiction Kitchen on Dawson Street, which oddly enough has the best "chicken n' waffles" I've had in downtown Raleigh. Their menu features a strong variety from vegan curry that can have a level of spice from 1-5, delectable root vegetable fries for a light appetizer, and quite the selection of cocktails and craft beers. This is must go for vegetarians and vegans and really anyone.

If you can still move after dancing all night at Double Barrel Benefit, there are quite a few late night options in and around the area. The obvious go-to is Cook Out for a nice and refreshing milkshake, but that is a bit of a drive back to Western. Less than two blocks from the venue is Bittersweet, a dessert bar that focuses on special sweet cocktails and decadent desserts to satiate any sweet tooth (if you are of age, of course). If you want to just keep dancing, Neptune's Parlour is right below Kings and will be sure to have something going on.

If none of these appeal to you, take the night off and prepare for the second night with a good nights sleep or just recover from both nights like many of us will be doing. No matter what you do before or after Double Barrel Benefit, the artists are sure to bring great music to create the best atmosphere in Raleigh on Feb. 24 and 25.

TOILE FIBREL BENEFIT XIV

FRIDAY 2.24

DJ TAY TAL
ACE HENDERSON
ZENSOFLY

SATURDAY 2.25

SARAH SHOOK & THE DISARMERS
SAND PACT
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INFINITY CRUSH
ASTRO COWBOY

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